

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 5, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 432

Introduced by Senator Ortiz

February 20, 2003

An act to add Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 8238) to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Code, relating to early childhood development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 432, as amended, Ortiz. Early childhood development: preschool.

The California Children and Families Act of 1998, an initiative measure approved by the voters on November 3, 1998, establishes the California Children and Families Commission to provide information and materials and to formulate guidelines for the establishment of comprehensive early childhood development programs; provides for the establishment of county children and families commissions to adopt, promote, and implement local early childhood development plans; and establishes the California Children and Families Trust Fund to provide funding for these programs.

Existing law establishes state preschool programs administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Existing law requires that preschool programs for which federal reimbursement is not available be reimbursed through state funds as provided in the annual Budget Act. Existing law requires each participant in the state preschool program to give priority to certain children, as specified.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a system of universal preschool for all children 3 and 4 years of age in California.

This bill would further state the intent of the Legislature to encourage the California Children and Families Commissions and the county children and families commissions to concentrate their assistance to children and families who reside in lower income neighborhoods and communities, as specified. The bill also would state the legislative intent that the California Children and Families Commission inform the Legislature, in the commission's annual report, of the extent to which funds disbursed from the California Children and Families Trust Fund reach children and families in these neighborhoods and communities.

This bill would additionally require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in preparing for the implementation of a Universal Preschool Program, to *appoint a task force of representative stakeholders* to develop eligibility requirements for participation in the Universal Preschool Program and to establish the amount of reimbursement that a participant in the Universal Preschool Program will receive for providing services to each child enrolled in its program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact
2 legislation to establish a system of universal preschool for all
3 children, three and four years of age, in California.
4 It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the California
5 Children and Families Commission and the county children and
6 families commissions, established pursuant to ~~the~~ Sections
7 130110 and 130140 of the Health and Safety Code, to concentrate
8 their assistance to children and families who reside in lower
9 income neighborhoods and communities, including
10 neighborhoods and communities with notable levels of childhood
11 poverty, teen pregnancy, school dropout rates, unemployment,
12 low maternal educational achievement, and a high incidence of the
13 presence of lead and other environmental hazards, as determined
14 by the latest federal decennial census or the *federal* Current
15 Population Survey.



1 It is further the intent of the Legislature that the California
2 Children and Families Commission, in its annual report submitted
3 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 130150 of the Health and
4 Safety Code, inform the Legislature of the extent to which funds
5 disbursed from the California Children and Families Trust Fund
6 reach those lower income neighborhoods and communities.

7 SEC. 2. Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 8238) is added
8 to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Code, to read:

9
10 Article 7.5. Universal Preschool Program

11
12 8238. To prepare for the implementation of a Universal
13 Preschool Program, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall
14 *appoint a task force of representative stakeholders to* do both of the
15 following:

16 (a) On or before October 1, 2004, develop eligibility
17 requirements for licensed public or private child care providers to
18 participate in the Universal Preschool Program.

19 (b) On or before January 1, 2005, establish the amount of
20 reimbursement that a participant in the Universal Preschool
21 Program will receive for providing services to each child enrolled
22 in its program.

